

Royal Albert Hall

Sunday 30 December 2018, 5.30pm

PLEASE DO NOT VIEW THIS CAST SHEET DURING A PERFORMANCE

THE NUTCRACKER

Choreography Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Production David Bintley

Additional choreography David Bintley, Marion Tait

Setting and additional props Dick Bird

Lighting Peter Teigen

Projection designs 59 Productions

Sound design Bobby Aitken

with **Simon Callow** as the *Voice of Drosselmeyer*

The Sugar Plum Fairy Céline Gittens

The Prince Brandon Lawrence

Drosselmeyer, Clara's Godfather

Rory Mackay

Clara Arancha Baselga

ACT I

Drosselmeyer's Assistant James Barton

Clara's Mother Yvette Knight

Clara's Father Jonathan Payn

Fritz, Clara's younger brother Harry Hincks

Clara's Dancing Partner Aitor Galende

Grandmother Laura Purkiss

Grandfather Kit Holder

Butler Harry Wright

Harlequin Gus Payne

Columbine Reina Fuchigami

Jack-in-the-Box Max Maslen

Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Nutcracker Doll James Barton

The Rat King Tom Rogers

Soldiers Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Snow Fairy Samara Downs

Her Attendants

Brooke Ray, Yaoqian Shang,

Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang

Winds

Gabriel Anderson, Haoliang Feng,

Miles Gilliver, Alexander Yap

Snowflakes

Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance

Laura Purkiss,

Tim Dutson, Valentin Olovyannikov

Arabian Dance

Alys Shee,

Edivaldo Souza da Silva, Harry Wright,

Alexander Yap

Chinese Dance

Louis Andreasen, August Generalli

Russian Dance

Callum Findlay-White, Aitor Galende,

Joseph Taylor

Dance of the Mirlitons

Rosanna Ely, Rachele Pizzillo,

Yuki Sugiura, Lynsey Sutherland

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy Beatrice Parma

Her Consorts

Gabriel Anderson, Tzu-Chao Chou,

Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan

Leading Flowers

Ruth Brill, Reina Fuchigami,

Maureya Lebowitz, Brooke Ray

Grand pas de deux

Céline Gittens, Brandon Lawrence

Students on the Robin Cadbury Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Director of the Royal Ballet School and Director of English National Ballet School.

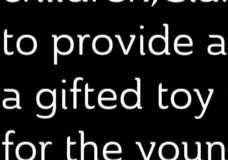
Students on the John Pinder Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst Ballet School

The children in this performance are

Alexander Aimet, Lily-Maire Le Blanc, Cohen Hart, Rin Miyoshi, Izabelle Pitt, Eli Warmington, Isla Washbourne, Harry Withers

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor Koen Kessels; Leader Kevin Lin



Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes

Interval 25 minutes

Act II 50 minutes

The performance will end at

approximately 7.40pm

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THE STORY

ACT I

It is Christmas Eve and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have invited Herr Drosselmeyer, Godfather to their two children, Clara and her younger brother Fritz, to provide a magic show. Drosselmeyer is a gifted toy maker and he brings presents for the young children; a Nutcracker doll for Clara and a Rat King puppet for Fritz. Clara is fascinated by the Nutcracker and her belief that it has magical powers is confirmed when her brother breaks it and the doll strangely mends itself. The party comes to an end, the guests depart and the family goes to bed.

Unable to sleep, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen. The whole room seems to grow and grow, and a horde of giant rats led by their King attacks Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toy soldiers, defends her – and a huge battle breaks out.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe and he collapses. The Nutcracker falls exhausted to the ground, seemingly lifeless. Sadly, Clara takes him in her arms and tries to revive him. He gradually comes back to life and, to her amazement, has turned into a handsome Prince. He dances with her, then leads her to the Land of Snow where the Winds transport her into the night sky.

ACT II

Clara flies through the clouds and arrives in a fantastic world, conjured up by Godfather Drosselmeyer, where she is greeted by a host of dolls from many different lands who seem familiar from Drosselmeyer's toy shop. The dolls come to life and dance for her but the festivities are cut short when the Rat King bursts in. The Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer restore order, by banishing him forever.

The celebrations continue as the dolls perform their national dances culminating in the Waltz of the Flowers. Finally, the glittering Sugar Plum Fairy dances a sparkling pas de deux with the Nutcracker Prince.

Clara grows sleepy and the dolls slowly fade from her mind. Finding herself back at the foot of the Christmas tree alone she wonders, 'was it all a magical dream?'